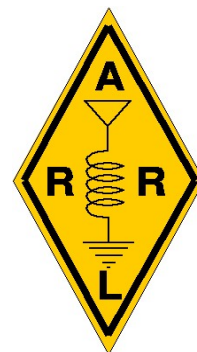


July 2025

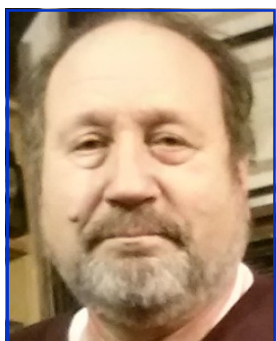
"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



The NODXA RAG



Pool Side Chat With KB8NW (written June 16, 2025)



Fellow DXers, IMPORTANT: NODXA Must Read...

Before I get to the main purpose of this message, I would like to make or remind members of a few important things about NODXA.

The Northern Ohio DX Association's (NODXA) main purpose has been noted for "Promoting DX and Funding DXpedition". NODXA has funded over 30+ DXpeditions since 2022, and our current treasury is at its lowest level in years (less than a 1/4 than it was in 2022). The club has been very generous to may DXpeditions, and we must now think wisely before donating.

In early April, NODXA was approached/requested for a donation by the group going to the 2026 3Y0K Bouvet DXpedition (<https://www.3Y0K.com>).

This is basically the same group that went in 2023, but per their Web page and brochure, "seem" to be better prepared and equipped than the last operation.

At the May NODXA membership meeting, many members are still upset over the last operation due to the following:

1) NODXA made a \$1000 donation (a large chunk out of our treasury), and the 3Y0J leaders would not provide instant LoTW credit to the membership after the their operation.

2) NODXA acknowledges 3Y0J's courageous effort to activate Bouvet Island, but it was well short of what their group promised when collecting the funds last time. The NODXA membership understands that their team had some harsh and major challenges on the island. However, the 3Y0J team should have known and been better prepared for these challenges. The 3Y0J team had plenty of time and info about the island from past operations.

It was decided at the May meeting to conduct a survey to see if the club's membership should donate funds for a second time to this group.

PLEASE, fill out the following questions and the club will determine by the end of August whether or not to donate funds to the 2026 3Y0K Bouvet DXpedition:

1) Should NODXA donate funds to the 3Y0K DXpedition? Yes or No

2) If NODXA decides to donate funds, how much would you feel is appropriate? under \$100 -- \$100 between \$150 -- Enter amount _____

ADDED COMMENTS (If you like; Keep short):

Again, please answer before the end of August....Send them to: kb8nw@hotmail.com
DO NOT SEND THEM ON THE NODXA MAILING LIST...

As always, I hope to see you in the coming weeks/months, possibly at a hamfest, or NODXA's general membership meetings every first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday -- it will be the second Monday).

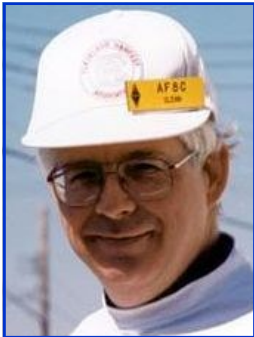
As a reminder, if you have a topic to discuss about DXing or contesting, bring it up at the meeting. Also, if you would like to put on a program of some interest for the club in the coming months, let us know so we can schedule you in for a meeting. We are always looking for a program.

73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW

Minutes of the March 3rd, 2025 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 13 members and guests were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of February 3, 2025. A correction is necessary for the destination of our donation, now to be VU4AX. Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded for approval of these minutes. The approval was passed by vote.



Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Clink. She said a young guy sent \$60.00 for three years of dues. Dues for 2025 will be due in May but we welcome people to renew at any time. PayPal can be used to send the dues to Mary (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Allan, K8AJ, moved and Dudley, WA1X, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed.

Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was operating OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, needs articles for the next edition of the newsletter. Dave can use images of QSL cards from people. Dave stated Tedd sent Dave an article about a Dxpedition. Also Dudley, WA1X, supplied an article on using AI to assist programming an antenna SWR bridge project.

Old/New Business:

Dennis, K8LBT, asked if anyone heard from Bruce, N8DJX. There was no information but George, K8KR, discussed that he may call Bruce. Dave, WD8IOU, mentioned the March 15 Toledo Hamfest. The NOARS Winter Hamfest is on March 9. The Cuyahoga Falls hamfest will be on April 5.

Tedd reported that the VU4AX team got our \$100.00 contribution. VU4AX will be up from March 10 to March 20. Tedd announced the winner of the NODXA plaque for the 2024 Ohio QSO Party is again OM2VL. Local operator Bob, KW8N, was the winning QRO single operator. N8PE won Low Power and W8NI won QRP.

Relative to the recent Mt. Athos operation, Tedd got an email from Marty Laine, OH2BH, about a status announcement coming "in a few more days". Pete, N8TR, described how the OQRS link for the operation disappeared. Tedd mentioned receiving the email from KZ8Y's wife who is looking for help in pricing estate items. Tedd has her cell phone number if anyone needs it. Tedd had some DX Calendars for anyone who wants one.

We donated to the VK9 group that will soon to move to VK9CU. Pete, N8TR, mentioned the erratically timed operation of JD1 that may be due to the operator's job there. Next Dave, WD8IOU, praised the use of HamAlert which can ping your cell phone if anything you want comes up.

Pete also thought someone was spamming the cluster with lots of spots being sent in minutes. A question came up whether it was an affect of a contest or some kind of mistake.

Joe, N8QXC, stated that Saturday there will be a two hour Special Event aircraft mobile station on 146.52 MHz simplex this Saturday. Joe also described the Blowtorch of Parma ARC, a new ham club with a high power repeater on 444.050, is involved with that special event operation. And Joe said the North Coast ARC is having a special event station W8H celebrating the bicentennial of Hin-kley on July 19.

Wayne, K8FF, mentioned that DX Engineering will be having a special in-store sale of coax, 10% off, in March. Tedd said there were no new funds requests this month. George, K8KR, mentioned that we can get 24/7 weather

"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

news on the NOAA VHF signal on 162.55 MHz. Finally, Tedd mentioned that the Crown Plaza hotel is now open with the name of Vitality Hotel.

Wrapup:

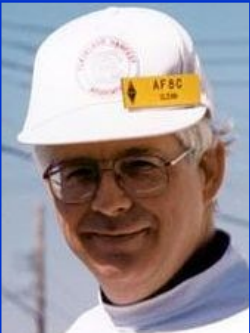
Tedd, KB8NW, noted the next meeting will be on April 7, 2025, at Amici's. At that meeting we will have nominations for officers. Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Nelson, K8DJC, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the April 7th, 2025 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 15 members and one guest were present. Our guest was Steve Dewey, N8BVD, Gary's son. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of March 3, 2025. Thereafter Joe, N8QXC, moved and Denny, WB8K, seconded for approval of these minutes. The approval was passed by vote. Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Clink. Dues for 2025 are due in May but we welcome people to renew at any time. PayPal can be used to send the dues to Mary (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com"). Thereafter Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed.

Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater was operating OK. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, has recently published the newsletter and will be starting on a new one. He always needs articles or images of QSL cards for the next edition of the newsletter. Dave complemented Dudley, WA1X, on his article on using AI to fix up an antenna tuner.



Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, asked if anyone has helped with closing the estate of Dave, KZ8Y. No answers were voiced. Wayne, K8FF, suggested that the monthly club net be moved to the club's two meter repeater to try for a wider reception area. This would happen even if there is activity on the Canadian repeater using the same frequency. Next Tedd, KB8NW, discussed the status of the recent Mt. Athos HF activity even though that activity shut down overly soon. The activity as SV1GA/A was approved for DXCC by the ARRL.

Tedd received the annual announcement of the need to renew our INDEXA membership. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded a motion to fund the \$20 renewal fee and that motion passed on the vote. Tedd announced that Jim, K8MR, used the club call NO8DX in the recent CQ WPX SSB contest. Tedd discussed the recent 9L5A team's plan to go to St Pierre & Miquelon, FP5KE, with 16 operators in a big operation. The ranking is 107 on Clublog. They are requesting funding support. Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Gary, NI8Z, seconded to send \$150 to the team.

Tedd has printed a couple of DX calendars if anyone needs a copy. Tedd reported that March was an active DX month. Dave, WD8IOU, asked operations as TY5FR in Benin have been heard. No information was voiced. The operation of 3B9DJ was complemented. George, K8KR, asked about the island of Diego Garcia where B2 bombers have moved to. Is anyone operating amateur radio there? There was no information forthcoming from the members.

The final activity of the meeting was the very important nomination of people for 2025-2026 club officers. Tedd was renominated to continue as club president. Joe, N8QXC, was nominated for vice president by Dennis, K8LBT. Treasurer Mary, N8DMM was renominated and secretary Glenn, AF8C, was renominated. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved, and Gary, NI8Z, seconded for a white ballot. The motion and election were passed.

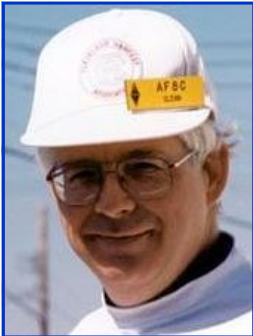
Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, noted the next meeting will be on May 5, 2025, at Amici's. Bruce, N8DJX moved and Wayne, K8FF, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

Minutes of the May 5th, 2025 NODXA Meeting

Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Amici's Italian Restaurant and Bar. A total of 21 members and one guest were present. After a round of introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States the secretary read the minutes for the meeting of April 7, 2025. Thereafter Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded for approval of these minutes. The approval was passed by vote. Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the balance report, of \$Clink. The drop in our balance was caused partially by the \$200 fee for annual PO box renewal. Renewals are coming in. Dues for 2025 are due in May but we welcome people to renew at any time. PayPal can be used to send the dues to Mary (via the address "marysbarn@roadrunner.com").



Tedd reported having been contacted by a possible new club member who promised to send dues for his new membership. But Mary hasn't received anything in the PO Box. Thereafter Denny, WB8K, moved and Metro, W8MET, seconded for the treasurer's report to be approved. That vote passed.

Glenn, AF8C, reported the repeater presents a lot of static during wet weather. Denny, WB8K, described the repeater noise problem as coming from the rubbing of detuning cables. Our editor Dave, WD8IOU, is gathering input for the next newsletter. He always needs articles or images of QSL cards for the next edition.

Old/New Business:

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that CARS will have a Saturday bus to the Hamvention for \$60.00 seats. Contact 2CARS.ORG soon. They will have three pickup sites. Dave also asked if anyone has heard from Dudley, WA1X. No answers came forth. Tedd reporting a Thank You for our \$20.00 renewal payment to INDEXA. Tedd received a Thank You from Patrick, F2DX, who will lead the FP5KE Dxpedition. Tedd received input from Ohio Business Search that we need to renew the club's business name registration. The fee for that, \$25.00, was sent.

We received two funding requests. The first request was from Yuris, YL2GM, for support for the ZS8W Marion Island operation. A few members reported working him. After some discussion Dave, WD8IOU, moved and Dennis, K8LBT, seconded for a \$150 donation to the ZS8W operation. That motion passed when voted.

The second funding request was from Cezar, VE3LYC, for support for the 2026 Bouvet Island operation. Tedd recommended we wait a while for committing anything to that one. Tedd later suggested we poll the membership for any opinions on support for Bouvet. Then Dave, WD8IOU, turned that into a motion. Then Gary, NI8Z, seconded, with the idea that we wait on it until after our August picnic event and then decide in September. We voted the latter decision. Tedd had two DX calendars printed for this meeting if anyone wants one. Finally Tedd announced that our vice president Joe, N8QXC, will run the meeting in June.

Wrapup:

Tedd, KB8NW, noted the next meeting will be on June 2, 2025, at Amici's. Linda, N8LRS, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded for the meeting to be closed and the motion was voted approved. The meeting closed at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

VP6G Story

By Gerben A.Menting, PG5M

4-14 April 2024

A little bit of history

I have been interested in Pitcairn Island for a long time, for two reasons. In the first place, Firstly, Pitcairn Island has a unique history and secondly, it is an interesting location for a DXpedition. If you do not yet know the story, I advise you to read about the mutineers of the Bounty. In December 1787, the HMS Bounty left England to gather breadfruit trees in Tahiti. They arrived in Tahiti in April 1789 where they stayed for six months. After they left Tahiti, there was a conflict between captain Bleigh and acting-Lieutenant Fletcher Christian who seized control of the ship from their captain. Bleigh and 18 crew members were put in an open longboat in the middle of the ocean. Fletcher Christian and 9 mutineers with their 9 Tahitian wives and 6 Tahitian men later settled on Pitcairn on 15 January 1790. The current population of about 50 people on Pitcairn are all descendants of these mutineers. There are many sources of information, and even movies, about Pitcairn.



Figure 1 - Pitcairn Island

VP6G Story

Introduction

I started to explore what I would need to get there. Two things should go in parallel, i.e. finding and booking suitable accommodation and arranging the transportation. The latter included several flights and a long boat trip.

For personal reasons I could only make concrete arrangements not further than 3 months ahead. The most difficult part was to get a confirmed seat on the MHS Silver Supporter, as it can only accommodate 12 passengers. First, I was placed on the waiting list but soon I got a confirmation. That was the start of organizing the flights and accommodation. The Silver Supporter is the ship that brings supplies 4 times a year from New Zealand to Pitcairn. In addition, they have a more frequent schedule between Mangareva (Tahiti) and Pitcairn. I booked the voyage from Mangareva to Pitcairn that would last more than two days.

I booked my regular flights to Papeete with KLM and AF. From Papeete you can only fly with Air Tahiti, which goes only twice a week. That flight connects perfectly with the departure of the Silver Supporter for which they use an ATR72, which is a small plane. I had to make sure I got a seat on that flight. Since I had 3 pieces of luggage, I needed to secure 2 extra cases as excess luggage. That turned out to be rather difficult. Officially they tell you that you can make arrangements for any excess baggage at the counter two hours before departure. If space permits, they can take it. Obviously, that was not acceptable to me as I wanted to be sure that all luggage would be on the flight with me. In the end, I did make arrangements with Air Tahiti cargo department (called Fret).

When planning the flights I made sure to build in time buffers in between the flights, in case I would experience delays or other unforeseen circumstances.

After several e-mail exchanges, I found suitable accommodation and made a booking with Brenda and Mike Christian. The accommodation was Plas Pitcairn Chalet, just 5 minutes' walk from

Bren and Mike their home, where I would also get my breakfast, lunch and dinner. With that, all arrangements were in place and ready to go.

Station design

I decided to add a new mode to my operation, due to the popularity by the community, i.e. FT8. During the W8S DXpedition I could see how you easily could operate one station with CW or SSB and at the side operate FT8 and therefore I wanted to give it a try.

When going for a DXpedition with high costs, I did not want it to be cut short due to equipment failure. Thus, I planned to have all equipment redundant, radio, power supply, computer and antenna. The SPE amplifier was the only exception as it is too heavy to bring two.

I have a SunSDR2 PRO and SunSDR2 DX, so this was a good setup. The SunSDR2 PRO is a 20W version but for use with the SPE amplifier, you need less than 10W. The SunSDR2 DX is a 100W version and can be run without amplifier.

On the laptops I had N1MM+ for logging and MSHV for FT8. Both laptops and the SunSDR2 radios were connected via UTP to a small router.

To run two radios simultaneously, you need BPFs and place the antennas at a good distance from each other. I built especially for this DXpedition the BPFs designed by DGoSA (SK) and available from DH4YM. These are 200W versions but small and lightweight. Although I tried to judge from Google Earth where I could place antennas, you need to see on the spot what is possible. But to be prepared, I decided I would need 30 meters and 70 meters of coax. As weight is a critical factor, I had been searching for the best solution and finally found the Messi and Paoloni Extraflex Bury 7 coax cable most suitable. It is low loss, can handle high power and 100 meters weights just 6 KG. As a corporate sponsor they donated this cable.

VP6G Story

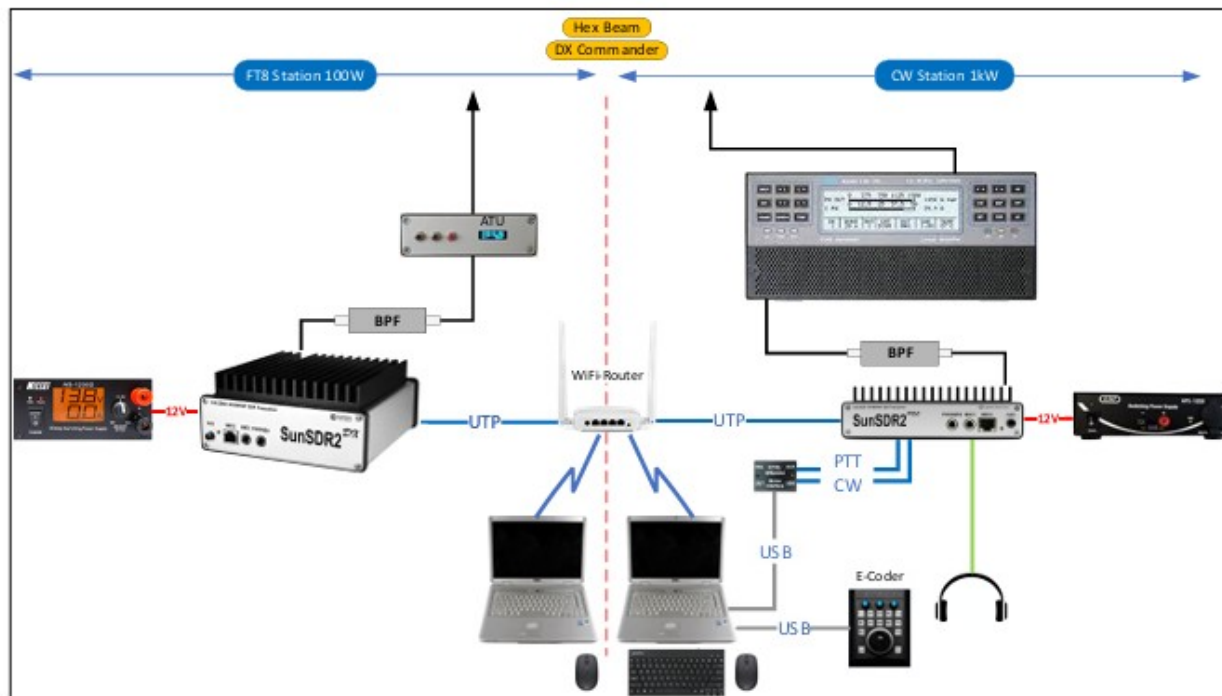


Figure 2 - Complete station setup.

I spent quite some time figuring out how I could squeeze all the equipment (and little personal things) into 3x 23KG bags/suitcases. Because of the length of the Spider pole for the DX Commander being 120 cm long, I needed at least one "odd size" bag. For that purpose, I purchased a golf bag. That could contain the DX Commander pole, the Hexbeam and the 100 meters of coax. This equipment combined weighed 23 kg already. One suitcase held the SPE amplifier, the base plate of the Hexbeam, one power supply unit and all the wires of the DX Commander, another 23 KG. All other equipment such as radios, power supply, cables, router, tools, etc. plus some personal stuff went into the second suitcase, yet another 23 KG.

I announced my DXpedition and created some pages on my web site (dx.to/vp6g/). At the same time, I started to approach DX Clubs and Foundation for support of this rather expensive DXpedition. Fortunately, several clubs and foundations responded positively.

The journey begins



Figure 3 - 3x 23KG plus backpack (not shown here)

On Sunday 31st of March I departed from AMS airport at 8:00 LT to CDG airport in Paris. From CDG I flew to LAX (AF24) and from AF28 to PPT. In LAX I learned that one suitcase (the most important one, was left in Paris. After consulting Air France staff, I was told that the suitcase would be on the AF28 flight, and I would get it in Papeete once I arrived there myself.

At the baggage drop-off, where I also informed them about my missing suitcase, I could watch a

VP6G Story

TSA agent unpacking my golf bag. Everything went out, and probably was surprised to see what he found in a golf bag. Everything went back in the bag and it was transported in a lorry to... my plane?

Yes, the golf bag made it to Papeete, but the other suitcase was still not in Papeete. I went to the Air France office to see what they could do. The lady there told me it would be on the next flight AF26, arriving at 05:30, which was only one hour before the departure of my next flight at 06:30 to Mangareva.

I went to the Air Tahiti service counter to discuss the case. The staff went to speak with the supervisor, and I was promised they would do the max to make it happen. With nothing more I could do, I went to get some sleep. Around 19:00 I went to the airport to change money as I needed to pay for the extra luggage in Mangareva for the return flight, which can only be paid in cash.

I woke up at 03:00 and went down to the lobby to get my golf bag from the locker, paid my bill and waited for the taxi. The taxi came at 04:00 as promised and a little later I was at the airport. I went to the Air Tahiti counter that was still closed but opened about 15 minutes later. I explained the situation and the staff were very understanding. I checked in two pieces of luggage. I was told I had excess baggage so had to pay. I showed him the invoice that I paid already in advance. He consulted his manager and came back saying that it was paid to Fret (the cargo department) so I had to check-in the extra luggage at the Fret counter. He showed me the way. When arriving there, everything was closed, and he told me they would open at 06:00. I realized that would not work for me as after checking 1 golf bag, I would need to run to the arrival hall to catch my suitcase from the AF26 flight and come back to them.

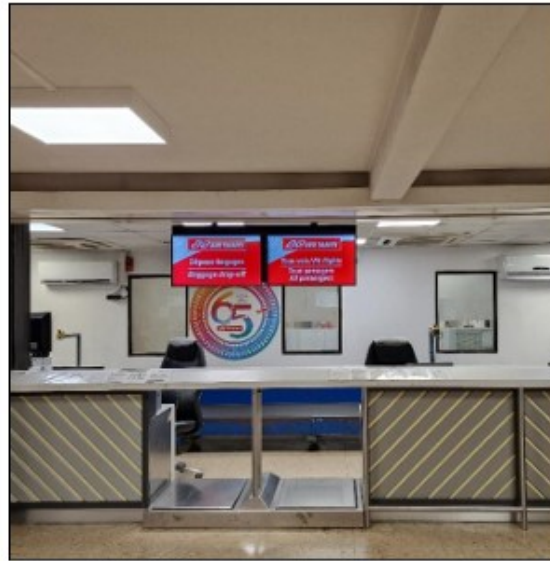


Figure 4 - Air Tahiti baggage drop-off

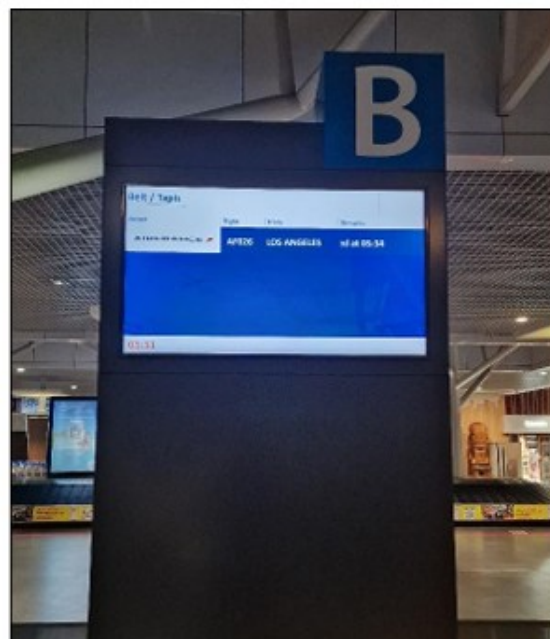


Figure 5 - AF26 baggage coming!

Therefore, I went back to the AT counter, checked-in the golf bag and paid excess baggage for two pieces. Next, I went to the arrival hall and waited until the AF26 arrived. I had already noticed that it would arrive 15 minutes ahead of schedule. I could hear the plane landing and I went into the arrivals hall. I was met by the lady of AF who was helpful and together we waited at the belt for my suitcase. She was already contacted by Air Tahiti who told her that 06:10 was the deadline. I think a few hundred suitcases went by until we saw my suitcase at 06:05. I

VP6G Story

grabbed it and rushed to the exit. There the AT staff were waiting for me and guided me to their counter to deliver the suitcase and put me through security. After that was done, I could walk straight to the plane. What a relief it was. The flight was first to the island of Hao where we stayed for about half an hour to refuel. Finally, we arrived in Mangareva.

In Mangareva I saw for the first time all 3 baggage together. I had to meet a police officer who was stamping my passport because I was about to leave French Polynesia.



Figure 6 - Transport to the Silver Supporter

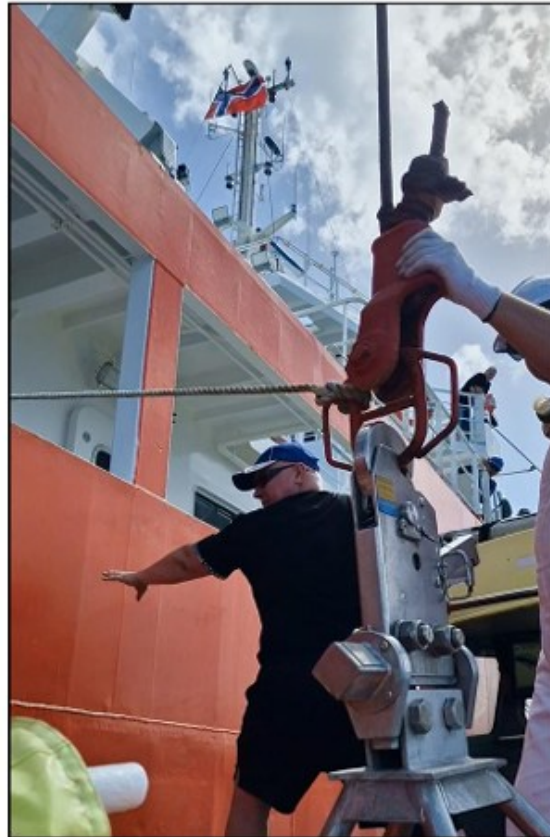


Figure 7 - Winching the small boat up to deck level

We went aboard a boat that brought us to the main island where we were welcomed by people from the M/V Silver Supporter.

A smaller boat brought 4 of the passengers with all the luggage to the Silver Supporter and came back to collect the remaining passengers. When you arrive at the Silver, they winch the whole boat up so you can easily step onto the main vessel. Finally, the smaller boat was parked on the vessel.

The Silver Supporter is a Norwegian vessel, hired by the Pitcairn government. It has a very diverse international crew. Captain from Latvia, Engineer from Russia, Cook from Philippines. 8 people in total.

VP6G Story



Figure 8 - M/V Silver Supporter

The passengers all were assigned a hut, some were sharing. I shared a hut that had two separate sleeping cabins. In the shared room, there was a small desk, and a toilet/shower room. All perfect.

Lots of food, three meals a day and always snacks and drinks.

Passengers: One young Russian guy, Simon from Scotland, Mona from the US, another man from the US, the police officer from New Zealand who came back from holidays, Melva returning home after a visit to the US, etc.

We arrived at Pitcairn when it was dark, and we had to wait until daylight before disembarking could start. The Pitcairn people came alongside with their longboat we were watching how to get off the Silver. Obviously the longboat is lying a lot lower than the deck of the Silver, so all luggage was handed one by one from the deck to the people in the longboat. For the passengers they had a rope ladder from which you had to climb down into the longboat. Wearing a life vest, they hooked everyone on a safety line during the descent.

Once all people and luggage were in the longboat, we went quickly to the harbor where most of the Pitcairners were welcoming us. The travelers were a mixture of people visiting for 3 or 11 days, people that came back home or people that came to Pitcairn for their business (like the only policeman on the island).



Figure 9 - Pitcairn with the harbor visible and where they are waiting for us.



Figure 10 - The longboat that would bring us ashore.



Figure 11 - Using a rope ladder to get into the longboat.

I was greeted first by Meralda VP6MW after which Brenda Christian welcomed me. I rented the chalet from Brenda and Mike Christian, so Brenda would take me and my luggage to transport to the chalet, which would be my "home" for the next 11 days.

After I arrived at the chalet, I examined the environment and had to decide where to place the antennas. Originally, I wanted to have the antennas separated by some 80 meters but given the circumstances, I had to change my plan. I guess they finally were just 20 meters apart.

It was still early in the day, and I went on to put together the DX Commander. After that, I assembled the Hexbeam. At that moment I

VP6G Story

needed some help to erect the DX Commander and to fix the 6-meter-tall pipe to the veranda and place the Hexbeam on top of it. Both antennas were up and ready for operation late afternoon.



Figure 12 - DX Commander



Figure 13 - The Hexbeam with clear view towards the Ocean (north)

Before operating, I checked the SWR of both antennas which was OK.

The next step was to put together my radio station, which would comprise of two stations, one for CW and one for FT8. I was quite sure that operating two radios at the same time, even by using BPF's, would not be feasible. However, on one occasion, I was able to operate CW on 20m and FT8 on 15m but further, I had to operate CW or FT8.

I experienced some RFI on the USB cable of the K1EL miniWK resulting in losing the COM port of the miniWK. I had brought a box with clip-on ferrite beads and applied several on the USB cable which solved the problem.

VP6G Story



Figure 14 - Operating position with two complete stations.

I received messages about FT8 Intermittent TX problems. I was informed by a DXpeditioner that they had a similar problem, and it was related to the SPE. Later people pointed to the radio as the problem. Therefore, I switched radios but that did not solve the problem. Others indicated it was related to the software, but I did not want to re-install software as it could end up in bigger problems. Consequently, people were experiencing problems, but overall, 7,827 QSO's were logged. I apologize for any trouble I have caused.

The electricity supply was excellent. Not so long ago, all homes in Pitcairn installed an advanced electric power solution, comprising solar panels, batteries, and an inverter. This was also the case for my chalet and therefore I had very stable and clean 240V AC, 24 hours a day.

For many years, Pitcairn had basic internet services provided via an Inmarsat ground station. Recently they started to replace this with a Starlink terminals at each home. Soon, telephone services via Starlink will be available too. With this new development I always had good internet available.



Figure 15 - The Hexbeam nicely attached to the veranda

6m operation

There were many JA stations looking for a contact with Pitcairn and I received several e-mails with suggestions and advise when I could best work Japan. I spent quite some time looking out for JA, which was just during dinner time. I skipped my dinner several times for that reason.

My first QSO on 6m was with Meralda VP6MW. What a surprise. Meralda is located at the center of Adamstown at a lower altitude and a bit closer to the sea. Between her location and Japan, there is a mountain – the same situation I was in. However, Meralda was able to make QSO's on 6m with JA's and I couldn't. It was strange that that many JA's were receiving me, but I did not receive any JA signal. That was a real pity for all those JA stations that were watching my activities. I was able to work other stations from TI, XE, PY, W, etc.

Both VP6MW and I were using a Hexbeam for the 6m operation.

Weather

During my stay, we had a few rain showers. I experienced an increasing SWR on the Hexbeam during these rain showers. My conclusion was that rainwater was probably filling the space between the two square aluminum pipes that form the feedline of the Hexbeam. To overcome the problem, I went out to the veranda and kicked the antenna mast which resulted in raindrops falling from the antenna. I could see that this improved the SWR, but still I started to use the tuner of the SPE.

Propagation

I had prepared propagation charts and Jari OH6BG was so kind to provide me with a "short-path and long-path point-to-point HF propagation predictions" for VP6G which was also available from my web site.

Scandinavia turned out to be one of the more difficult areas from a propagation perspective and therefore needed extra attention. However, reality proved that I could work OH, SM, LA and

VP6G Story

OZ stations on several bands and they showed up in the pile ups like all others. Often the difference was that OH and LA station were presented with flutter.

Interestingly, sometimes I could hear the propagation moving from East to West over Europe. First the stations from Russia were loud, and next this moved to HA, OH, OZ, DL, F, etc. Nice experience.

With the solar cycle nearing its top, and long openings on the higher bands as a result, I wanted to work as much as I could on the higher bands. In the coming years this may be much more difficult, and focus will move to the lower bands.

Results

My aim was to make between 12,000 and 15,000 QSO's but I finally managed to get 16,241 QSO's in the log. As a CW-man, I'm happy that I was able to make more CW QSO's than FT8 😊.

Operating Time

First QSO: 2024-04-05 05:38:41
Last QSO: 2024-04-13 22:21:18
Number of days: 8.70

Band/Mode breakdown

Band	CW	FT8	Total	Total %
40	344	870	1214	7.5%
30	510	966	1476	9.1%
20	1289	1285	2574	15.8%
17	1144	2425	3569	22.0%
15	606	939	1545	9.5%
12	2335	699	3034	18.7%
10	2185	595	2780	17.1%
6	0	49	49	0.3%
Totals	8413	7828	16241	

Figure 16 - Band/Mode breakdown

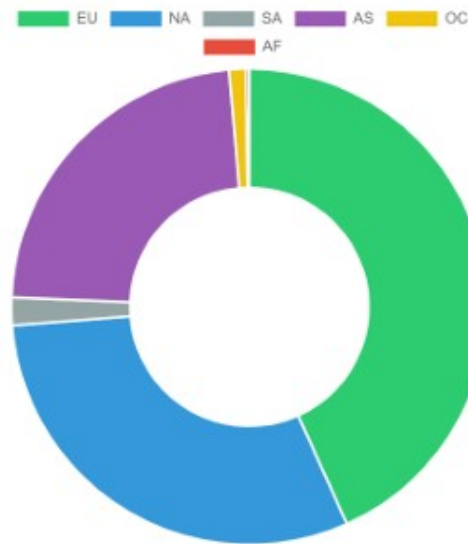


Figure 17 - Distribution by continent

There is a good balance between the three main continents, despite the critical notes on the DX clusters.

Sponsors

I'm very happy that 11 clubs and foundations were willing to sponsor my DXpedition, which helps to lower my personal investment in this rather expensive DXpedition.

These sponsors are: Clipperton DX Club, German DX Foundation, Swiss DX Foundation, The UK DX Foundation, Twin City DX Association, International DX Association, KC5WXA, Danish DX Group, Willamette Valley DX Club, Southern German DX Group, Northern Ohio DX Association and Messi & Paoloni.

I would also like to mention the donations made by individuals before the DXpedition, as well as those who donated a little extra on top of the fee for the QSL card/LoTW. A big thank you to all the above!

Back home, the work of the QSL has started already. Charles MoOXO is my QSL manager. He provides a great service, which some people underestimate in terms of the work involved, and the fact that it is all done on a voluntary basis.

More information: www.dx.to

Fifty Beads to Choke Your Feedline by John Miktuk, Amateur Radio Funnies

Years ago in the group Antenna Building, Jay inquired why 50 ferrite beads were used in the feedpoint of a helical wound 40 Meter dipole he got at a parody yard sale. I vaguely remember Paul Simon singing something about that back in the mid '70s, so I looked it up.

The problem is all inside RF
She said to me
The answer is easy if you
Take it logically
I'd like to help you in your
struggle to be QRM free
There must be fifty beads
To choke your feedline

She said it's really not my habit
To intrude
Furthermore, I hope my meaning
Won't be lost or misconstrued
But I'll repeat myself
At the risk of being crude
There must be fifty beads
To choke your feedline
Fifty beads to choke your
feedline

You put beads on the back, Jack
That's a good plan, Stan
You don't need to be coy, Roy
Just get QRM free
No RF on the bus, Gus
You don't need to discuss much
Just drop off the key, Lee
And get QRM free

She said it grieves me so
To see you in such pain
I wish there was something I
could do
To make you RF burns free
I said, I appreciate that
And would you please explain
About the 50 beads?
She said why don't we both
Add beads to it tonight

And I believe in the morning
You'll begin to see the light
And then she kissed me
And I realized she probably was
right
There must be fifty beads
To choke your feedline

You put beads on the back, Jack
That's a good plan, Stan
You don't need to be coy, Roy
Just get QRM free!
No RF on the bus, Gus
You don't need to discuss much
Just drop off the key, Lee
And get QRM free...



Custom Callsign Plaques by David Autry, WD8IOU

NODXA member, Denny Jakubisin, WB8K, is an avid DXer and loves 6 meters. But Denny also has another passion, wood working! As you can tell from the pictures, he is really good at it!

The callsign letters in the N8TR plaque are made with inlaid wood and the callsign letters in the WD8IOU plaque are made with poured epoxy. Other styles are available. Denny uses a special laser technique so the quality is always excellent.

The prices for these plaques start around \$30 (I think) but you should contact Denny at wb8k@att.net for details. Thanks Denny!



A Blast From the Past by David Autry, WD8IOU

Recently I was at Bill Tarczy, W8BG, house helping him with a computer problem and he showed me a QSL card that I sent to him confirming my first 40-meter CW contact. I was quite surprised to see my card and it brought back lots of memories when I was working CW using a Heathkit DX-40, a Drake 2C, and a random wire antenna hanging out the window of my 2nd story apartment. This contact was made in February 1978 so that was 47 years ago! My life, and my station, has changed a lot since then.

Bill gave me my card so I went home to find the card that he sent me; I still had it! My card is unique in that the pictures and letters were made using glitter! The company was 3-D QSL who are no longer around. Pictures of both cards are below.



Radio	WD8IOU	Confirming
Our	CW	QSO on Feb 9 1978
At	9:45 - 10:00 PM EST	Time
RST	528	ON 40 MC
XMTR	DRAKE 2C	
RCVR	" " RAC	
ANT.	dipole	
Remarks:	Hpe u corrected ur ANTENNA PROBLEM. 73 - plz QSL - Bill Tarczy	
73		
PSE QSL TNX		

CLEVELAND, OHIO
FEB 13 1978
U.S. POSTAGE
0.09
1199567

ARS WD8IOU
DAVID AUTRY
6310 MAPLEWOOD
#F203
MAYFIELD Hgts, Ohio
44124

Ritz Print Shop, 5810 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44102



Radio *WD8LHK* Confirming
 our QSO of *February 4 1978*
 at *9:40 PM* *EST* UTC *7:35* MHz
 Mode *CW* Ur sigs *R5 S9 1270*
 Xmtr *Heathkit DX-40*
 Rcvr *Drake 2-C*
 Ant *Dipole (but not so more)*

Bill, tx for being my first contact on 40. Even if you are just across town! I fixed my ant. problem by buying a Dentron JR. Monitor and using a long wire. Works great!

☐ Pse

☒ QSL

Tnx ☒

73. Dave



ARS WD8LHK

*Op. Bill Tarczy
 18421 Chagrin Blvd
 Shaker Heights, Ohio*

44122

QRM Cover by Bob Dunn, K5IQ

Full Results FT8 Silent Key Contest

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QRM

ARGH The national association for GREASY HAMS

December 2024 www.arghorg.pdq

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO ELECTRIC SHOCKS

Dumps On The Air

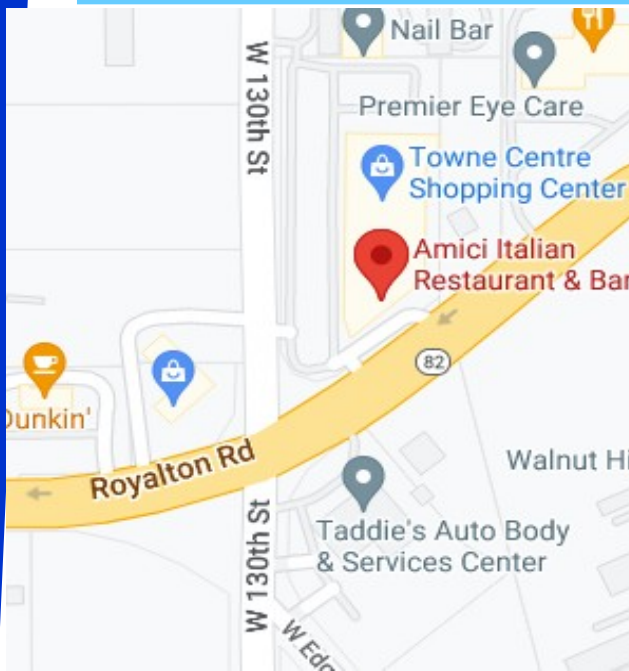
QRM Reviews

222 MHz Slow-Scan TV Handhelds

Chou Kēji 532A QRO HF Microscope

Buc-ee's Skeeter™ "10 meter" Mobile

Skank-A-Tron HF Stereo Adapter



Meeting Information

NODXA Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the *Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar* at 13000 Royalton Road east of Interstate 71 on the northeast corner of Route 82 and West 130th. in North Royalton at 6:30 PM. Come early and have dinner and meet your fellow DXers and enter the 50/50 raffle.

NODXA Information

NO8DX: Special Event Callsign
W8DXA: NODXA Repeater 147.360

Web-site: <http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html>
Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

NODXA Club Officials for 2025-2026

President: Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW (440-237-2816)
V. President: Joseph Mizik III, N8QXC (440-238-3436)
Secretary: Glenn Williams, AF8C (440-934-5566)
Treasurer: Mary Michaelis, N8DMM (440-236-5426)
Newsletter: David Autry, WD8IOU (440-238-0417)



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DXCC Info

As of January 2018, the current DXCC Entities total is: **340**.

NODXA Application and Renewal Form

The Northern Ohio DX Association is a non-profit organization with a primary interest in DXing. We encourage all DXers to join our group and share the interest and fun of DXing.

Please complete the application below and send along your appropriate dues or renewal to:

NODXA, P.O. Box 361624 , Strongsville, Ohio 44136

First Time Membership/Renewal (U.S. and DX) \$20.00

Name _____ Callsign _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____
Country _____ ZIP _____
E-mail _____
Telephone _____
ARRL Member? _____ Exp. Date _____ DXCC Member? _____
Special Interest _____

Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, AF8C, K8YSE, PG5M, K5IQ, John Miktuk and Amateur Radio Funnies.